



President's Column

Starting Out

As the summer begins its slow fade into autumn, I become aware that the High Holidays are just around the corner. Of course, here at Sha'ar Zahav, planning for this High Holiday season began several months ago. But there are two aspects of that planning. One is the organizational planning that is required so that our services go smoothly. In a sense, this is the easier of the two: The tasks are well outlined, we have a history of performing them in previous years, and we have a wealth of knowledge and experience from which to draw.

The other task for me is more personal—preparing myself emotionally and spiritually for the holidays. Much has happened to me during the past year, and it is during the High Holidays that I really sit back and reflect on the changes that have taken place throughout this year. As always, there are some wonderful things to reflect on and, alas, some not so wonderful things. This past year the events that I have lived through have had higher highs and lower lows. The three most memorable things for me this year were the death of my mother,

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Tiku Bachodesh Shofar ... Thoughts on Rosh Hashanah

Sound the shofar on the new moon, at the appointed time for our day of festival; for it is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob, Leah and Rachel."

—Rosh Hashanah Machzor

Although the shofar is sounded on other occasions, it is most often associated with Rosh Hashanah. When we begin thinking of the High Holidays, it is the sound of the shofar that reverberates in our ears. The Jews of ancient Babylonia also heard the shofar before Rosh Hashanah, but for them it was not nostalgia, but the real thing. They began the custom, still observed in some Jewish communities, of blowing the shofar every day during Elul, the last month of the year, as a reminder of the coming of the Days of Awe. Many traditional reasons are given for the blowing of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah: a reminder of the ram that was sacrificed by Abraham in place of his son Isaac, a precursor to the day of judgment, a reminder of the war-alarm that was sounded when the

Temple was destroyed. A beautiful legend is told by the followers of the Baal Shem Tov, founder of Chassidic Jewry. It is said that the Baal Shem Tov had instructed a shofar blower in the mystical meanings of the shofar blasts, but that on Rosh Hashanah, the blower forgot them all, and broke down in tears. The Baal Shem Tov comforted him, saying that the mystical meanings were keys to the many doors of Heaven, but if the keys were lost, one could break the doors down with an axe, and the blower's heartbroken sobs were the axe.

"In the seventh month, on the first day of the month there will be a sacred day of rest to you, for remembrance and for sounding the shofar, a holy assembly."

—Leviticus 23:23-24

The first reference to a festival on the first of Tishri resembles nothing like the Rosh Hashanah we know today. It was a sabbatical observance, indicating that the seventh month was to be treated like

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High Holidays Logistics

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will welcome and celebrate the New Year 5750 during High Holiday services at the beautiful sanctuary of the Unitarian Center at Franklin and Geary streets, and at our own synagogue. Rosh Hashanah, the New Year, begins on Friday evening, September 29, and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, follows 10 days later, beginning with Kol Nidre on Sunday evening, October 8. The High Holiday season begins at Selichot on Saturday evening, September 23, and concludes with Simchat Torah on October 21. Please refer to the complete High Holiday schedule on page 7 for exact times and locations of all services.

In addition to our religious services, a number of related observances and activities occur during the High Holiday

season. Please see the accompanying articles in this issue for details about our High Holiday blood drive, the dedication of the Sha'ar Zahav cemetery, and the purchasing of Rosh Hashanah greeting cards to support the CSZ Sanctuary Bond Fund.

Changes from Past Years

- The Children's Service on Rosh Hashanah will begin at 10 am in the small chapel at the Unitarian Center.
- If you want to add names to be read aloud at Yizkor on Yom Kippur, please submit the names by the end of the first day of Rosh Hashanah.
- There will *not* be an evening service on the *second* day of Rosh Hashanah.
- The location of the chemically-free area for those with environmental sensi-

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Concerns for the New Year

The approaching High Holiday season calls us to *cheshbon ha-nefesh*—an accounting of the soul. From Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur—indeed, during the entire month of Elul—Judaism summons us to critically examine how we live, what we value and the means we use to attain our goals. Each of us is engaged in individual, internal *teshuvah*—the process of turning and returning. Our communal prayers, though, are always plural—“... for the transgressions we have committed....” Why?

First, our rabbis considered it unseemly for an individual to confess private wrongdoings publicly. To spare any one person embarrassment, we all say the words together so that those for whom these words are especially meaningful can express their *teshuvah* without embarrassment. Second, *teshuvah* is not easy for any of us; it is a common human frailty to deny our errors. Therefore, our liturgy asks us to consider those failings which are most common and whether they may apply to our lives as well. Finally, the collective language of our prayers is a liturgical expression of a fundamental Jewish theme—we live as part of—and are responsible for—the wider community. Our prayers and actions—which are both necessary to *teshuvah*—cannot be limited to restoring or healing our own spiritual and interpersonal deficits. Complete *teshuvah* must also include assumption of responsibility—and action—on behalf of healing and completing the community and society in which we live.

During our High Holiday services, we will touch on many of the urgent matters confronting us in the year ahead. Writing this column in early August, I already know that neither I nor the other High Holiday speakers will be able to address all of the pressing social concerns which belong on the agenda of our community in the New Year. Nonetheless, they properly belong in the forefront of our consciousness during this High Holiday season. My greatest concerns include:

Reproductive Rights

The recent Supreme Court decision in the Webster case allows state legislatures to further restrict the rights of women to make decisions about their

own bodies. Meanwhile, Christian fundamentalists are physically blocking women's health clinics, denying women access to the entire range of health services they need.

Homelessness

The streets of our cities are filled with people who are homeless. The homeless include the chronically mentally ill who are in need of support and care as well as many working people who cannot afford housing on the income they have or who ended up on the streets after a temporary setback and cannot now get off. The Bikkur Cholim and Social Action committees are exploring how we as a congregation can respond. On a daily basis, the homeless require our compassion and our activism.

AIDS

The recent announcement that the federal government will not fund early intervention and health care for people living with HIV disease suggests that the Bush administration is prepared to write off hundreds of thousands of citizens—most of whom are gay, members of minorities or IV drug users. On the local level, efforts continue to overturn the various anti-discrimination protections which exist. The AIDS crisis highlights the wider problem of inequities in health care access and distribution in this country and throughout the world.

Lesbian and Gay Rights

So much of our energy has been diverted to the AIDS struggle that the long-term fight for lesbian and gay rights has necessarily been slowed. Our progress—and our continuing oppression—are best illustrated by the mayor's and Board of Supervisors' endorsement of the domestic partners legislation and by the rapid appearance of a petition demanding its repeal. From now until the election on November 7, our help is needed in winning this campaign.

Israel

Many of us continue to be distressed by the direction (or absence thereof) the Israeli government has taken in pursuing peace and negotiating an end to the *infetadah*. The dangers to the integrity of the nation inherent in remaining an occupying power—cautioned against by Peace Now and others years ago—continue. Even as the last year witnessed both encouraging signs of progress and

renewed intransigence, the new year holds promise of hope and cause for concern.

In the lobby of the Unitarian Center, our committees will have information on how Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is taking action in each of these areas of concern. We are taught: “It is not upon you to finish the task, but nor are you free not to begin.” As we enter this New Year, let us each renew our commitment to sharing in the sacred task of helping and healing the society in which we live.

I wish you and your loved ones a New Year of fulfillment and peace. May each of us and our world be inscribed for a good New Year.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alita Rosenfeld & Howard Blechman, co-chairs, Leonard Brill, Shirley Liberman, Margaret Livingston, and Lane Schickler (general editorial and production), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Allan Brandstein, Frank Hyman, Alex Ingersoll, Hal Podgur, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Mouse Type Inc., and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Social Action

It's Been a Busy Summer!

During the past two months, your Social Action Committee has broadened its efforts to involve the congregation in issues and programs which affect us directly or indirectly as gay and lesbian Jews and friends or in which our special voice and perspective can have a meaningful impact.

Abortion Clinic Defense

Following the Va'ad decision to make a statement in support of women's reproductive rights we, along with the Women's Chavurah, organized a clinic defense network within the congregation. The letter announcing this was sent to all members and resulted in more than 40 people joining our "alert" network. Twenty-eight of these people came to a special clinic defense seminar on August 13, following a moving and informative Shabbat sermon by Rabbi Kahn about the Jewish perspective on abortion. Anyone may still join in our effort. There will be a sign-making/pizza party at 2005 Fulton St., San Francisco, at 6:30 pm on Sept. 17.

Homelessness

We had a joint meeting with the Bikkur Cholim Committee, which resulted in a list of goals and priorities for our congregational response to the problems of homeless people in our community. We hope to formulate a response before winter and seek your input on this issue.

Domestic Partners

With elections approaching, the committee will be developing a strategy for the congregational involvement in the struggle to sustain the domestic partners ordinance passed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. This legislation addresses long-term discrimination against gay men and lesbians. The Va'ad has already endorsed this ordinance, which has considerable organized opposition from the religious right. We envision a need for volunteers to donate a small amount of time to do voter outreach to the minority, women's, business and religious communities during October.

Lesbian/Gay Jewish Parenting Forum

Finally, Social Action has joined with Women's Chavurah, Children's Chavurah and the Education Committee in

planning a series of forums this fall on Jewish Perspectives on Lesbian and Gay Parenting. The four Sunday afternoon panels will address: "So You Want To Be a Parent ... Raising Children in the Lesbian/Gay and Jewish Communities" (November 5); "A Lawyer and a Rabbi Talk About Lesbian/Gay Parenting," with Rabbi Kahn and Roberta Achtenberg (November 19); "A Lifelong Perspective on Jewish Adoption" (December 3); and "The Newest Special Needs Children: Caring for HIV Positive and 'Crack' Affected Kids" (December 17).

The Social Action Committee is always looking for people within our congregation who are willing to devote time or energy to a specific issue or task. If you want to participate in any of the above activities, please call Jonathan at 387-0977 or Lisa at 285-4934.

New Year's Cards Now Available

In this newsletter you will find an order form for Rosh Hashanah cards, sold as a fundraiser to help refugees from the war-torn countries of Central America. As in the last three seasons, this year's card sales are expected to result in a significant contribution toward helping those seeking legal asylum in the United States.

The peace message in this beautiful card by Linda Boonshoft is written in English, Hebrew, Arabic, Russian and Spanish, reminding us and our friends and families to renew our efforts toward peace in this new year of 5750. This project is coordinated by the Social Action Committee in conjunction with the San Francisco Sanctuary Coalition.

CSZ Child Care

High Holidays

Once again, child care will be provided for all services scheduled at the Unitarian Center during the High Holidays.

Reservations must be made in advance by calling the synagogue office no later than September 22. If no children are pre-registered for any particular service, child care will not be provided for that service.

As in the past a contribution is requested to help defray the cost of care. The suggested contributions are:

- Members: evenings only, \$10; all services, \$15.
- Non-members: evenings only, \$15; all services, \$20.

For each additional child per family add \$5.

Friday Night

Starting Friday, September 22, child care will be available one Friday night each month during services. Child care is open to members and non-members upstairs in the administrative offices and no reservations are required. There is no fee for care, although donations are gratefully appreciated.

The monthly child care will be available for a trial period for four months, from September until December on the following dates: September 22, October 27, November 24 and December 29. Should usage indicate a need, monthly child care will become a regular event.

We need members willing to volunteer to help staff the child care room and donations of books and toys would also be appreciated. Please call Diana Buchbinder at 282-2059 to make arrangements.

Classified Ads

ARE YOU READY for a refreshing break? Massage to Music for Women. Enjoy—Unwind—Relax—Reawaken. Call for an appointment. Certified Massage Therapist. Sue 527-1773.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES of Health are seeking participants who are HIV positive for a study of foscarnet for the treatment of cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis. Persons previously treated with ganciclovir (DHPG) are not eligible. For further information regarding this study, please call Barbara Baird, R.N., (collect) at (301) 496-9565.

THE SAN FRANCISCO Jewish Vocational Service is looking for donations of 18-20 "walkmans," blank cassette tapes, used cash registers, or used typewriters for use in a new vocational training program for Soviet refugees. The "Rabota" program (which means "work" in Russian) includes training in typing, telephone, computer, cashiering, 10-key adding machine, interviewing, job search skills, and American workplace culture, plus an intensive English language component. Upon completion of the 12-week program, the emigres will be placed into entry-level clerical and cashiering jobs. Please call Julie Dorf at JVS, (415) 391-3595 with any ideas or suggestion for these much needed donations.

President's Column

(Continued from page 1)

the beginning of life as a parent, and my election as president of Sha'ar Zahav. Each of the three is quite different and each was quite challenging individually, but I feel that I've been able to cope with each of them through the faith that I have been able to find and nurture through my experiences and friendships at Sha'ar Zahav.

One of the most important things for me in life has been the concept of a community—a place where there are people I care about, and where I feel comfortable and cared for as well. Little did I know when I walked through the doors at Dovre Hall 12 years ago that Sha'ar Zahav would be where I would find such a community. For me, the synagogue has become a central part of my life, and even after my term as president is over, I know that I will continue to give to and get back from Sha'ar Zahav in many different ways. I want to thank all of you who have worked so hard for so long for keeping us strong and flourishing in the San Francisco community. I know that there are other people who still have not found us, and it is our duty and responsibility to be there for them in the future, so that no gay or lesbian Jew ever need be without the spiritual sustenance they need in their lives.

As we enter this most holy part of our year, my wish is that all of us can search inside ourselves and find the peace and inner strength to continue on our own paths as individuals and as members of the Sha'ar Zahav community. I look forward to seeing all of you at High Holiday services this year. L'shanah tovah.

Aussie Pen Pal

The congregation received a letter from a 25-year-old Australian man who desires a "pen pal." Only his first name, Craig, was provided.

Craig, who speaks Hebrew and has visited Israel three times, wants "... to get to know people who are perhaps interested in the religious aspects of Judaism which I believe should be accessible to us as to all other Jews...."

Craig intends to make his first visit to the United States and to San Francisco in the spring of 1990, en route to Israel, where he intends to live. His address is: P.O. Box 190, Caulfield East, Melbourne 3145 Victoria, Australia.

Logistics (Continued from page 1)

tivities has been moved to the Starr King Room at the Unitarian Center.

Seating at the Unitarian Center

As in the past, our services are open to all, without advance tickets or reservations. For evening services, we will reserve the front of the Unitarian Center sanctuary for Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests. Congregation members in good standing will soon receive membership cards in the mail. Present this card to admit yourself and your guests into the members' reserved seating area. Plan to arrive 30 minutes early each evening—the sanctuary fills quickly.

In order to accommodate our large evening congregations, we have reserved the chapel at the Unitarian Center for both High Holiday evening services, and also the Starr King Room for Kol Nidre. The sound from the main sanctuary will be piped into these rooms and ushers will be present throughout the services. In addition, this year we are adding a more personal touch: candles will be lit in each room, and, for Rosh Hashanah evening, congregants will lead the kiddush and the motzi.

Parking

Parking close to the Unitarian Center is at a premium. Meters and street parking restrictions are enforced, yes, even on Jewish holidays (but not on Columbus Day, which coincides with Yom Kippur!). There are a number of nearby lots with various parking charges, but please note that there is *no* parking available at the Unitarian Center. Plan your time to include this search!

Wheelchair Accessibility

The Unitarian Center is wheelchair accessible, but has extremely limited handicapped parking on the street. Please notify the synagogue office one

week in advance if you will need assistance in entering through the special wheelchair entrance.

Signing at Services

We will be pleased to provide signers for the hearing-impaired at any service when needed. Please call the synagogue office one week in advance to schedule.

Child Care

Child care will be available during each service at the Unitarian Center, beginning 30 minutes in advance of a given service. Space is limited, so reservations must be made by September 22 by calling the office. Those without reservations will be accommodated on a space-available, first-come, first-served basis on the day of the service. See the separate article on child care on page 3.

Children's Services

The Children's Chavurah and Ritual Committee will lead children's High Holiday services at the Unitarian Center. On Rosh Hashanah, the service will begin at 10 am in the small chapel at the Unitarian Center. Parents are asked to attend and participate in the service with their children. Later in the day, children will especially enjoy the picnic and tashlich service at Fort Point. On Yom Kippur, the children's service will follow the Musaf service in the main sanctuary at approximately 1:30 pm.

Environmental Sensitivities

Last-minute efforts to find and fill any available seats in the sanctuary and movement of people throughout the services have defeated our efforts to provide a protected area in the main sanctuary. This year, a section of the Starr King Room at the Unitarian Center will be designated "chemically-free." Your cooperation is requested in reserving this room for those who are environ-

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Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 8 | Claudia Bernard & Deborah Hart |
| 15 | Sanford Ira Friedman & Jerome Hipps |
| 19 | Richard P. Inlander & Ben Schalit |
| 27 | Susan Valerie Gelmis & Kate Steane |
| 30 | Blanche Blachman & Adrienne Forshay |

Remember to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our yahrzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

Report on the 1989 Advance

The ninth annual Leadership Advance for CSZ was held on July 7-9 at Wildwood Resort with 38 attendees. (Yes, this is what other groups usually call a "retreat," but being the forward-looking organization that we are, the term "Advance" just seems to suit us better.) Although some free time is built into the schedule, it is truly a working weekend, with workshops scheduled as late as 10 pm.

The primary purpose of the Advance is to have synagogue leaders (past, present and future) assemble for an intensive, uninterrupted weekend of workshops. The topics and schedule are set by the president, vice president and Advance coordinator in the months preceding the Advance. The primary goal in each workshop, large or small, is to propose solutions to the issues or problems we are addressing, as well as plans for implementing them. Large group workshops where the attendees brainstorm and discuss the topic at hand are often followed by sessions where we break up into groups of five or six for more focused and intimate discussion. The topics and issues vary from year to year. As in the past, Susan Colson, professional facilitator, was employed to lead most of the workshops and help us synthesize the results.

The weekend began with a Kabballat Shabbat service, and some lovely music to set the tone for the evening. This was followed by a workshop on CSZ as a spiritual source. Many attendees found this workshop, and particularly the small group discussions that followed, to be inspiring.

Saturday was a full day, beginning with a Shabbat morning service and Torah study session. The morning workshop was devoted to brainstorming and discussion of the ways in which CSZ has changed and grown over the years. The goal was to find ways to reconcile conflicting needs and wants so that all members find what they need at CSZ. Saturday afternoon was free time, and in the 90+ degree heat we all welcomed a chance to relax by the pool. Saturday evening Rabbi Kahn led a workshop on the sources of our liturgy, followed by an open discussion of whether or not it is meeting our needs. Shabbat ended with a lovely Havdallah

service in the twilight.

Sunday morning began with a workshop on the grumblings and dissatisfactions we've heard from members of the congregation. A group brainstorming session was followed by small-group discussions of what we can do to address them. After this workshop we had a report from the Long Range Planning Committee, a presentation by Eric on his Rules of Presidency, another from Rabbi Kahn on his hours and availability, and ended with wrap-up and discussion.

Many solutions were proposed to the issues and problems we discussed over the weekend. The notes from the Advance have been transcribed and the issues and solutions that surfaced are being extracted. Eric Keitel, Allan Berenstein and Gail Friedlander will spend the coming months categorizing the solutions (short-term, long-term, feasible, etc.) and will bring suggestions for implementing to the Va'ad. Your monthly Va'ad Report in the JGF will keep you up to date on Advance follow-up activities. If you have any questions or would like to know more about the Advance, contact this writer.

—Gail Friedlander
Advance Coordinator

NFTS Meeting

On Tuesday, August 8, Ann Biderman and I attended the Summer Institute of the Northern California region of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods (NFTS), held at the Haas-Lilienthal House here in San Francisco. Although CSZ does not have a traditional synagogue sisterhood, NFTS invited us to attend as an "unaffiliated congregation."

The immediate past president of the local NFTS board sent us a personal invitation, and we're glad we went. The morning panel, discussing the role of a sisterhood in a congregation, was quite educational. We then broke into discussion groups. The topics were leadership development, recruiting members and programming. After lunch, John Rothman talked about the Jewish history of San Francisco and gave a tour of the Haas-Lilienthal House.

NFTS is an arm of the UAHC, so many people there were familiar with CSZ. They were very open to us, delighted we had attended, and encouraged our further participation. We found that we have much in common, as many of the temple sisterhoods do fundraising and are active in pro-choice and in providing services to people with AIDS.

—Robin Leonard



Dr. Robert Rankin Elected Trustee of the UAHC

Dr. Robert (Mike) Rankin of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is congratulated by Allan B. Goldman, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (left) and Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler (right), on his election to the Board of Trustees, the governing board of the central body of Reform Judaism, representing 824 congregations in North America.

July and August Va'ad Report

The Va'ad has met twice since the last newsletter; this report covers both meetings.

The July Va'ad meeting was the first for the new board, and covered a good deal of both new and ongoing business. It also immediately followed the three-day Leadership Advance at Wildwood Resort. Va'ad members were exhilarated in the afterglow of the Advance and very tired. Rabbi Kahn began by asking us to remember and sustain the spirit of the Advance and spoke about listening with understanding and an open heart.

Gail Friedlander will be transcribing notes from the Advance and will be working with Eric Keitel and Allan Berenstein on Advance follow-up in the coming months. The Va'ad will be sponsoring an oneg in honor of Rob Tat and his nine years as Advance coordinator.

After some discussion regarding the appropriate use of the sanctuary, a motion was passed to allow its use for life-cycle ceremonies for non-members provided that Rabbi Kahn is officiating. In addition, the Va'ad agreed to rent space to Congregation Bet Shechinah for High Holiday services.

Initial planning has begun for our 1990 Bat/Bar Mitzvah celebration, for which Don Albert and Susan Gelmis are serving as co-chairs. Mayor Agnos will be invited as an honoree to the main event. The range of other possible events is being explored and will be reported on next month. Ben Schalit answered routine questions about the budget, and reported on the ongoing Dues Education Committee's work, including their recent meeting with Sue Broad of Congregation Rodef Shalom, a UAHC congregation in Marin County. Robin Leonard gave a report on the Ronnie Gilbert concert. We lost some money on the event, but it was a very good learning experience in terms of what worked and what did not for planning, fundraising and publicity.

Merry Luskin, Membership Committee chair, presented three new members who were unanimously voted in. She also distributed a letter to be mailed to inactive members soliciting them to become involved/reinvolved, listing the various committees and activities in

which they could take part.

The last order of business, which engendered considerable discussion, was a Pro-Choice Report and Resolution written by Ann Biderman, Lisa Katz and Jonathan Mesinger. Lisa presented the report, which calls for CSZ to support both a woman's right to choose abortion and a network of members involved in abortion clinic defense. CARAL (California Abortion Right Action League) will be providing non-violence training for members of the network. After rewording the proposal to indicate that abortion clinic defense would be undertaken with the support of rather than on behalf of the congregation, the Va'ad approved it unanimously.

In keeping with our custom, the meeting was adjourned shortly after 9 p.m. with the singing of Oseh Shalom.

The August Va'ad meeting began by Rabbi Kahn speaking of the several meanings that "outreach" has for us as individuals and as a community, and of the need to be aware and continue to do outreach even as we "inreach," or turn inward during the High Holidays.

Ben Schalit addressed a number of questions about the July financial statement. He reported on his success in collecting the majority of '88-'89 dues pledges, and discussed the dues education efforts. Gail Friedlander and Irene Ogus presented the approach which the Dues Education Committee will be taking in the next phase of this ongoing project. Receipt of a bequest from Cheryl Orvis' estate led to a discussion of whether bequests should go into the General Fund or Endowment Fund. Allan Berenstein moved that a subcommittee be formed to formalize a policy regarding this matter, and the Va'ad approved it.

Lisa Katz and Jonathan Mesinger, co-chairs of the Social Action Committee, gave an update on abortion clinic defense preparation. They also presented a motion for CSZ to endorse the San Francisco domestic partnership ordinance, which was passed by the Va'ad.

Eric Keitel reported that Diana Buchbinder will begin providing child care during Friday night services one night a month for four months starting Septem-

ber 22. He also led a discussion of our participation in the Folsom and Castro Street fairs. The Folsom Street Fair is on September 24 when we already have two events scheduled and the Castro Street Fair is once again falling on one of the High Holidays, October 1, the second day of Rosh Hashanah. This has happened consistently the last few years, and Leslie Bergson volunteered to write a letter to the organizers asking them to be more aware of the Jewish High Holidays in their planning.

Don Albert and Susan Gelmis discussed the preliminary plans for our 1990 Bat/Bar Mitzvah celebration, which will include a wide variety of events, ranging from educational to religious to social. They will be directly responsible for only a portion of the event planning, with various committees involved in planning specific events. A preliminary list of suggested events was distributed for review and comment by Va'ad members. The main event being planned at this time will honor Mayor Agnos and two additional members of the community.

Jenny Helbraun reviewed security and lock-up procedures, and discussed our guidelines for emergencies. Eric Keitel commented on the number of members who volunteered to take over routes for Project Open Hand meal deliveries last Christmas day, which exceeded the number needed. He's looking into having members provided with the names of other community agencies which also need volunteers.

Richard Inlander, chair of the Cemetery Committee, reported that the dedication of our cemetery will take place on Sunday, September 24. Nine plots have been sold to date. Markers and a threshold to the cemetery have been designed by Ralph Frischman, and the Va'ad unanimously approved the expenditure for these permanent memorial plaques. Merry Luskin, chair of the Membership Committee, presented five new members and one new family, all of whom were unanimously voted in.

The August meeting too was adjourned shortly after 9 pm with the singing of Oseh Shalom.

—Gail Friedlander

High Holidays Schedule

All services are in the main sanctuary at the Unitarian Center unless noted otherwise.

Selichot

Saturday, September 23, 9:30 pm
at Sha'ar Zahav

CSZ Cemetery Dedication

Sunday, September 24, 1:30 pm
The CSZ Cemetery at Hills of Eternity

First Day of Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 29, Maariv, 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 30, Shacharit/
Musaf, 10:00 am

Children's Service, 10:00 am in the
Unitarian Center Chapel;
Seudat Mitzvah after Musaf at Fort
Point;

Tashlich, 3:30 pm at Fort Point

Second Day of Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, October 1, 10:00 am
at Sha'ar Zahav

Shabbat Shuvah (Sabbath of Return)

Friday, October 6, 8:15 pm

Saturday, October 7, 10:30 am;

Healing Service, 4:00 pm

All three services at Sha'ar Zahav

High Holiday Blood Drive

Saturday, October 7, 9:30 am-1:30 pm

Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, 270
Masonic Ave., San Francisco

Yom Kippur

Sunday, October 8, Kol Nidre, 7:30 pm

Monday, October 9

Shacharit/Musaf, 10:00 am;

Children's Service, 1:30 pm;

Mincha, 3:30 pm;

Yizkor/Neilah, 5:00 pm

Break fast to follow

Sukkot

Friday, October 13, 8:15 pm

at Sha'ar Zahav

Saturday, October 14, 10:30 am

in Rabbi Kahn's sukkah (call office
for address)

Saturday, October 14, Potluck Lunch-

eon, 11:30 am,

925 Talbot in Albany

Sunday, October 15, Service/Potluck,

6:45 pm

424 Central in San Francisco (sukkah

building at 10:30 am, sukkah

decorating at noon)

Simchat Torah

Friday, October 20, 8:15 pm

Saturday, October 21, 10:30 am

both services at Sha'ar Zahav



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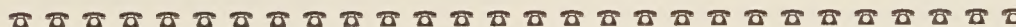
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Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

AIDS Fund

Richard Wellins

George Ash, in appreciation of the congregation

Bitachon Fund

Irene Ogus and Rosalinda del Moral, in honor of Eric Keitel becoming president

Education Fund

Joel Levine and Debbi Jacobs Levine, in honor of the brit chaim of Shoshana Jacobs Levine

Library Fund

Robert Stern, in honor of Peter Vishniac's conversion

Betty Kalis, in memory of Ed Gabay

Howard Blechman, in happiness at having his parents celebrate the High Holidays with him

Prayerbook Fund

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in honor of the engagement of Dale Rosenthal and Michael Cutler

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barbara Lotney

Dennis Bates, in honor of Rabbi Kahn

Ed Anisman and Claire Sherman, in honor of Dan's conversion

Mike Zimmerman, in memory of Guy Mannheimer

Lolma Olson and Beth Reed, in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn's support and love for their commitment ceremony on June 18

Cheri Pies, in memory of her father, Morris Pies

General Fund

Past President's Council, in memory of Sarah Comerchero's mother

Richard Inlander, in honor of Susan Horst Borg

Perry Paker, in memory of Gussie Paker

Joan Gelfand, in memory of Seymour Gelfand

Robert Gutterman and Paul Cohen, in honor of the birth of Libi and Ron Cape's grandson

Mrs. Natalie Ryan, in appreciation of everyone who produced the admirable cookbook

Judy Schwartz, In honor of Eric, Aaron and Shawn

Richard Inlander, in appreciation of Ben Schalit and Irene Ogus, for their eternal good company

Ernie Weinstein and Scott Feinstein, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schafer's 60th anniversary and in celebration of Nate and John Schafer's marriage

Office Notes

If you've heard a new voice when you called the temple office, it must have been our new office secretary, Veronica Kleinberg, who has been answering the phone since July 31. Veronica brings several years of administrative and secretarial experience in the Jewish community to CSZ. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in international relations and a master of arts in creative arts—both of these degrees will prove useful in our office. She is versatile and enthusiastic and we are happy to have her join our staff.

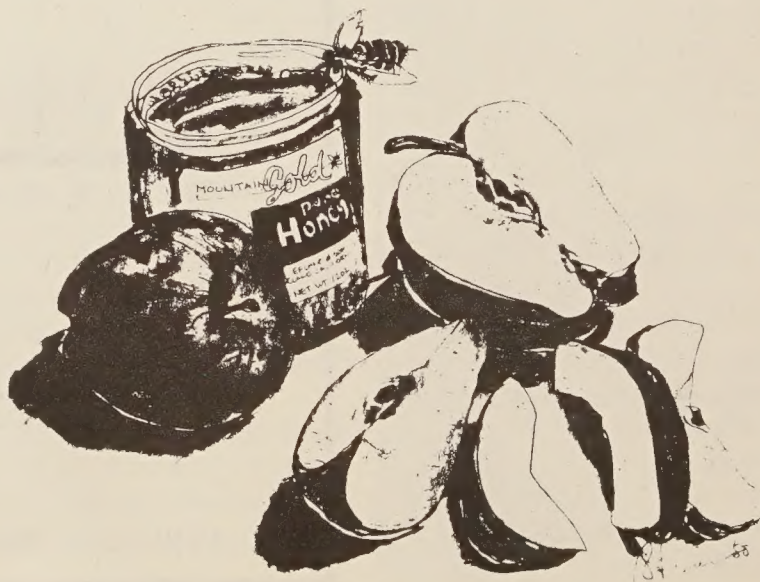
Our office hours will be changing during this period of training and vacations. We will be open most mornings from 9:30 am, and during several afternoons. Call the synagogue office or check the Friday announcements sheet for specific office hours.

Birthdays

1	Alexander Louis Konski
1	Tom Rothgiesser
2	Jeff Friedman
2	Sharon Simma Lieberman
3	Wendy O.
3	Sandra Morris
5	Jeff Miller
6	Lee Ryan
6	Rosalinda Del Moral
7	Al Baum
9	Mark Weisman
9	Jeremy Glen Hoffman
12	Robin Leonard
14	Kipp Leyser
18	Marvin Steele
19	Rob Tat
20	Elizabeth Katz
21	Steven Cronenwalt
21	Janine M. Baer
23	Marianne D. Ades
23	Diana Nahouraii
25	Jean-Charles Bellour
27	Ralph Vissell
28	Catherine Wisniewski
29	Sofia Saperstein
30	Joan Gelfand

Shabbat Manual Tapes

In response to many requests, a music cassette for the CSZ Shabbat Manual is now available for purchase from the synagogue office. Featuring our own Leslie Bergson, this tape includes all of the blessings and songs included in the Shabbat Manual. You can sing along or learn to lead the home service yourself. Copies are available for \$3.



Sibling Notes

Ahavat Shalom (San Francisco)—has reorganized and now holds services at 7:30 pm every other Friday evening. It's done away with its officers and is led by a board of four, with two co-leaders. Best of luck with the new direction our siblings "down the hill" are taking.

Am Tikvah (Boston)—hosted the first Jewish healing service in New England for people with AIDS with Temple Beth David of Canton, the American Jewish Congress, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Pastoral Concerns Committee of AIDS action.

Beth Ahavah (Philadelphia)—held a congregational picnic to honor three of its members (all past presidents) who led the congregation during trying times and in difficult endeavors.

Bet Haverim (Atlanta)—hosted a weekend with Rabbi Rebecca Albert, past dean of students at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College to learn more about Reconstructionist theology and practice and how their congregation fits into the Reconstructionist movement.

Beth Simchat Torah (New York)—was visited by a host of New York City politicians early in the summer, including Representative Ted Weiss, Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins, New York City Council Member Ruth Messinger and Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman. (It must be an election year in NYC!)

Bet Mishpachah (Washington)—noting that "every Jewish neighborhood has a Chinese restaurant," their Women's Programs Committee recently held a catered pre-Shabbat dinner at a local Chinese restaurant.

Beyt G'vurah (Minneapolis)—received at least four donations from Twin Cities rabbis to underwrite scholarships for Beyt G'vurah members who attended the World Congress 11th International Conference in Chicago last month.

Chevrei Tikva (Cleveland)—set a goal of having 50 members by the end of the 1988-1989 year. At last count they were at 49; *mazel tov* on almost getting there—we know you'll make it!

Chutzpah (Toronto)—hosted a weekend for members of NAYIM, the gay and lesbian Jewish group from Rochester, N.Y. The weekend included a special Oneg Shabbat on Friday, sightseeing

and a picnic on Saturday and a farewell brunch on Sunday.

Yachad (South Africa)—celebrated its fifth birthday last month. Their annual meeting was held at a formerly kosher, now gay owned and operated, restaurant. (Perhaps someday the two will merge?)

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Oneg Sponsors

During June and July onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 6/2 Peter Vishniac, in honor of all those who worked so hard on the Passover seder, especially Shirley Liberman, Judith and Rebecca Cohen, Margaret Livingston, and Susan Stahl
- 6/9 Lolma Olson and Beth Reed, in honor of their kiddushin
- 6/16 Lane Schickler and Jim Perkins, in honor of their fifth anniversary
- 6/23 Robin Leonard and Lee Ryan, in honor of their ninth anniversary
- 6/29 The Past Presidents' Council, in honor of all the incoming officers and board members
- 7/14 Alan and Elaine Orvis, in memory of Cheryl Orvis
- 7/21 Susan Gelmis, in honor of Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper, on the occasion of Shawn coming to live with them
- 7/28 The Ritual Committee, in honor of Steve Greenberg

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

High Holidays Blood Drive and Tay-Sachs Testing

The Women's Chavurah of Sha'ar Zahav is sponsoring our annual High Holidays Blood Drive on October 7 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank (270 Masonic Ave. at Turk). We are pleased to announce that we will also be providing the new service of testing for Tay-Sachs for those interested. The mitzvah of donating blood is a wonderful way to begin the New Year. Although many men cannot donate, many women can. The credits from donations to our account are available to be used by any member of Sha'ar Zahav who needs blood.

We are once again fortunate to have Allan Berenstein as the coordinator of our canteen, where refreshments and friendly smiles will await you to replenish your energy after donating. If you are not able to donate blood, you can still help out by volunteering a couple of hours of your time during the blood drive to staff the canteen or welcoming table or distribute cassettes to donors for their listening pleasure. Another option is to have a friend donate for you.

Many of you give blood to our account during the year. We receive a monthly statement from Irwin listing the new donations received. If you are not able to donate on October 7, feel free to donate at a time more convenient for you. Please make sure to let the blood bank know that your donation should be credited to our account.

Please call me at 648-5526 to schedule your appointment for donating and/or Tay-Sachs testing, for information, to volunteer, or to request blood if you are ever in need.

—Ann Biderman
Women's Chavurah Chairperson

Naches

Congratulations to Laurie Hauer and Grace Laurencin on the birth of Maya Kalia Hauer-Laurencin, who was born on July 27 and entered into the covenant on August 6.

Congratulations to Lolma Olson and Beth Reed, who celebrated their kiddushin on June 18.

mentally sensitive. Please sit in this area only if you are not wearing cologne or perfume and do not smell of tobacco, etc.

Reading of Names at Our Yom Kippur Yizkor Service

At our Yom Kippur Yizkor service, we read the names of deceased family members and friends of Sha'ar Zahav members whose names are on the synagogue's *yahrzeit* list. The names of all those whose *yahrzeit* is regularly observed by the congregation, as well as the names of members' loved ones who have died in the past year, will be read at the Yizkor service. In addition, we will continue to recall the loved ones of guests and others who are not on the synagogue's permanent *yahrzeit* list. However, in order to facilitate preparation for the service, we will not be able to accept names on Yom Kippur day itself.

This year we ask that you submit names no later than the end of the first day of Rosh Hashanah. Please either call the synagogue office or use the sign-up sheets which will be available at the membership table in the lobby of the Unitarian Center on Rosh Hashanah.

Festival Picnic and Tashlich

Everyone is invited to our festival picnic, or *seudat mitzvah*, at Fort Point (below the Golden Gate Bridge) following Rosh Hashanah Musaf services. Later, at 3:30 pm, we'll hold a brief *tashlich* service, which includes the ritual "shedding" of the previous year and casting away of sins into the water. Bring your own picnic; we'll provide the crumbs to cast away!

Second Day Rosh Hashanah Services

The second day of Rosh Hashanah will be observed in our own sanctuary. Please note that we will not have a Second Day Maariv (evening) service. Our Second Day observance will begin on Sunday morning, October 1. These services are unique in their solemn, yet informal, nature. Being held in our sanctuary gives and added "haimish" feel to our beautiful holiday observances. See the High Holiday schedule on page 7 for details.

Onegs and Break Fast

Join us for an *oneg* and *kiddush* after Rosh Hashanah Maariv (evening) services at the Unitarian Center. In place of an *oneg* after Rosh Hashanah Musaf services at the Unitarian Center, join us for our *seudat mitzvah* at Fort Point (see

above). Services on the second day of Rosh Hashanah will be followed by an afternoon *oneg* at our sanctuary.

Join us after Neilah, the closing service of Yom Kippur, for a break fast at the Unitarian Center. A table will be provided where those following macrobiotic/vegetarian diets can bring food for their break fast. Call Keith Barton for details at 428-1641. Volunteers are needed to help in preparing *onegs* and break fast. Call Shirley Liberman at 863-7500 ext. 123.

Shabbat Shuvah

Shabbat Shuvah, the Sabbath of Return, is the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We will observe it at Friday evening services on October 6 and on Saturday morning in our sanctuary. See the High Holidays schedule.

Healing Service

A liturgy for healing service will take place on the afternoon of Shabbat Shuvah, October 7, at 4 pm in the sanctuary of the synagogue. This service is open to everyone—those who are ill, those who are mourning a loss, and all those who wish to join us in prayer and reflection. The afternoon service concludes with Havdalah.

Sukkot

Sukkot, the first of the three harvest pilgrimage festivals, begins at sundown on Friday, October 13. We'll observe Sukkot during our Shabbat services that evening. On Saturday morning, October 14, Rabbi Kahn will host Shabbat services in his sukkah.

Families with children are invited to

share a festive potluck luncheon with Kadimah (the CSZ religious school) and the Children's Chavurah, on Saturday, October 14, 11:30 am at the home of Sue Douglass in Albany.

Our congregational Sukkot celebration and potluck will be held once again at the home of Allan Gold and Gary Glasser in San Francisco on Sunday, October 15, at 6:45 pm.

Please call Steve Elman at 651-5857 if you can help build the sukkah in San Francisco on Sunday, October 15 at 10:30 am or decorate it at noon, or if you have decorations or branches to contribute for any of the sukkot.

AIDS Food Drive

As we have done for the last three years, CSZ will collect non-perishable foods for the AIDS Food Bank at our Kol Nidre service. Please bring a bag of food items as part of your Yom Kippur observance.

Simchat Torah

On Simchat Torah we celebrate the completion of the yearly cycle of reading the Torah and then immediately begin the new cycle for the new year. Join us at our Friday evening services on October 20, and again on Saturday morning, October 21. See the High Holiday schedule in this issue, and look ahead to the October *Forward* for details.

Begin Your Year with a Mitzvah!

Volunteer to usher, help with *onegs*, or do child care. Call our High Holidays coordinators: Hal Podgur at 469-5882, or Claudia Bernard at 647-1196.

See the High Holidays schedule for a complete listing of times and locations.

Members and Friends of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

are invited to attend the dedication of our

***Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Cemetery
at the Hills of Eternity***

Sunday, September 24, 1989

at 1:30 pm

Directions: Highway 280 to Serramonte Boulevard. Serramonte east, past auto row, to the signal at El Camino Real. Right on El Camino then left at the second cut in the center divider, into Hills of Eternity. Drive up to the outdoor mausoleum on your right and park.

Project Open Hand

Yes, I would be interested in volunteering for meal deliveries on a regular basis.

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

I am available on the following days: ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Sunday

I am willing to do this on a ☐ weekly ☐ monthly basis.

I am willing to make a ☐ 3 month ☐ 6 month ☐ 1 year commitment.

I ☐ do ☐ do not have a car that can be used.

I would like to work with the following person(s) on my route:

Rosh Hashanah Thoughts (Continued from page 1)

the seventh day, as a sabbath, a day of rest and renewal.

"And Ezra the priest brought the Law before the congregation, both men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month."

—Nehemiah 8:2

After the Babylonian captivity, when the Jews returned to Jerusalem, Ezra and Nehemiah chose Rosh Hashanah as the day upon which they read the Torah to the people. It is said that the people wept when they heard the Law, and realized how far they had drifted from the way of life it prescribed. But they were told to rejoice in God's holy day, to eat rich food and drink sweet wine, and to share with those who had none. Possibly because of this biblical passage, sweet foods and drinks have become associated with Rosh Hashanah. So, the next time your Aunt Sadie gives you an apple dipped in honey on Rosh Hashanah, and tells you to have a "zissen yuhr" (sweet year), she is keeping a Jewish tradition that dates back to before the building of the Second Temple.

"On Rosh Hashanah it is written, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed..."

—Musaf service, Rosh Hashanah

The celebration of Rosh Hashanah as a holiday proclaiming God as the Ruler of the world, and our rededication to serving God began in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, but the concept of Rosh

Hashanah as a day of judgment came some 700 years later, in about 200 C.E. The Mishnah was in the process of being written, and the rabbis resolved that God passes judgment upon all humans either by renewing life, or passing a sentence of death. About 300 years after that, the Talmud added the metaphor of the Book of Life, that God writes on Rosh Hashanah who shall live and who shall die, but, being a God of mercy, does not seal the judgment until Yom Kippur, 10 days later. This forms the basis for the Un'saneh Tokef, the prayer quoted in part above. This prayer is attributed to Rabbi Amnon of Mayence, who is said to have written it as he died for Kiddush Ha-Shem—Sanctification of God's Name.

"Hayom Harat Olam—Today is the birthday of the world."

What is Rosh Hashanah's significance today, as we begin the 5,750th year of the Jewish calendar? Some of us find it difficult to accept all the monarchical images of God as presented in the traditional machzor, and the simplistic idea that the good shall live and the bad shall die. However, who of us doesn't need the concept of renewal, of being able to let go of mistakes, regrets and wrongful acts, and begin again? Rosh Hashanah offers the opportunity to examine ourselves, to take a long, solemn look at who we are—and then, like the Jews of the Babylonian captivity, to wipe away our tears and celebrate the birthday of the world.

Lending a Hand

On Christmas Day 1988, more than 100 members and friends of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav volunteered to assist Project Open Hand's delivery of meals to people with AIDS. This project was a great success, both in terms of the mitzvah we performed, as well as the good feelings it engendered to all the participants. Currently, Open Hand is seeking volunteers for meal deliveries on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and we'd like to form CSZ teams to help out in this important effort for our community.

At this time, we would like to ask our members and friends if they would be interested in making a more frequent commitment to Project Open Hand by volunteering on a regular basis for delivery of meals to people with AIDS. The meal delivery takes place from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm daily. It is recommended that people work in groups of twos or threes for each route. If you would like to become involved in this worthwhile project, complete the coupon below and return it to the synagogue. Please mark the outside of the envelope "Attention: Project Open Hand." Thank you for considering lending *your* hand to this most worthy cause.



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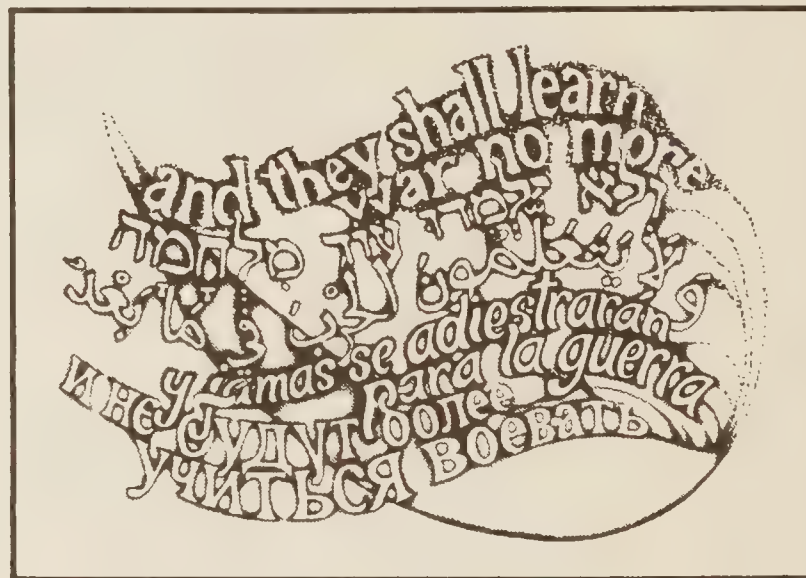
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Rosh Hashanah Cards

In Support of Central American Refugees
NOW AVAILABLE!

Four color, folded cards with envelopes

For the 4th consecutive year, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is joining with the San Francisco Jewish Sanctuary Coalition to raise funds for Central American refugees through the sale of Jewish New Year cards.



Funds collected from the sale of these cards will go toward bonds to allow detained refugees to pursue legal asylum in the United States. As Jews, we remember the lessons of the Holocaust, when most of the world closed its doors to a people in need. Today, thousands of Central American families and individuals who have come to the U.S. to escape injustice, death, and repression continue to need our assistance. The purchase of these cards and any donations are a way of reminding friends and family during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur of our vision of a world of peace and justice.

This year,
Rosh Hashanah starts
on the evening of
September 29th.

Make Check or Money Order Payable to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and Mail to:

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Please send _____ packages at \$8.50 per package (8 cards and envelopes)

_____ I am enclosing an additional contribution of \$ _____

_____ Total payment enclosed

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Contributions are tax deductible. All orders are sent by first class mail upon receipt.

Cemetery Price Increase Postponed

At our annual congregational meeting last spring, members were informed through the Cemetery Committee report that on August 1, Sherith Israel would be increasing the charge for cemetery plots and services. The date of the increase has been postponed to October 1. This means that members of Sha'ar Zahav have the month of September to make pre-need arrangements at the present, lower prices.

If you enter into your agreement now, you will lock in the lower price, even though you may choose to pay only one-fifth down and may take up to five years to pay the balance, with no interest charges. Also, you will have the satisfaction of making arrangements so that those who survive you will not be burdened with difficult decisions or conflicts at a time of extreme emotional distress.

The Cemetery Committee will have a brochure available within a few weeks. If you have any questions in the meantime, please call Richard Inlander at 821-4134, or talk to a member of the Cemetery Committee: Paul Cohen, Irene Ogus or Lyssa Friedman. Or call Wayne Caton at Hills of Eternity, 756-3633.

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss.

To Jeffrey Davidson on the loss of his stepfather, Herman Cohen.

To Sarah Comerchero on the loss of her mother, Bertha Comerchero.

To Bill Schlichter on the loss of his father, Richard Schlichter.

To Russell Kassman on the loss of his lover, Tom Lindsey.

To Winston Pickett on the loss of his wife, Rabbi Charisse Kranes.

To Isabelle Fishman and to Mike Rankin on the loss of their friend, Florence Chisholm.

To Susan Gelmis on the loss of her friend, Jim Henchey.

To Lonnie Weiss on the loss of her friend, Hugh Martin.

To Steve Cronenwalt on the loss of his grandmother, Lucille Cronenwalt.

To the congregation on the loss of its member, Ed Gabay.

Sha'ar Zahav to Dedicate Cemetery

On Sunday, September 24 at 1:30 pm, members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and friends from throughout the community will gather to dedicate our cemetery at Hills of Eternity Memorial Park. We hope you will attend.

Since February 1989, our synagogue has had an arrangement with Congregation Sherith Israel for the exclusive use of our own area within the larger Jewish cemetery which they own. Our beloved past president Cheryl Orvis is buried there, and some of our members already have visited the cemetery to make pre-need arrangements. The dedication will provide an opportunity for all of us to visit the cemetery together. As a congregational family we will participate in a special service officially marking this landmark event in the bat/bar mitzvah year of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

If you have visited our cemetery, you have seen that our area is high on the

gentle slopes of a grassy hill and is surrounded by some of the most beautiful and interesting grave sites in this historic cemetery. In dedicating our cemetery we will be setting it apart and marking the entrance in a way that is in complete harmony with the surrounding areas and at the same time says that this place is special and is uniquely Sha'ar Zahav's.

The dedication service will also give us an opportunity to make our annual cemetery visit, this year for the first time at our own cemetery. The traditional visit at the High Holiday season allows us to set aside a few minutes to especially remember those who have died and to continue a tradition of respect and caring for those we loved in life.

Please mark your calendar now so that you will be with us when we dedicate our cemetery at this very special moment in our history.

Florence: A Memory

Florence Gershon Chisholm, a friend of our congregation, died at the Jewish Home on July 25. She was 94.

Brilliant and beautiful, Florence was a combination of Auntie Mame and Margaret Bourke-White. Among her other accomplishments in a rich and full life, Florence was a reporter who covered the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco for several wire services.

Florence came to services at Sha'ar Zahav with Isabelle and me as often as her health would allow, and she loved everything this congregation stands for. One Shabbat we arrived unusually early, and sitting in the front pew, waiting for services to begin, I asked her about her early life in San Francisco where she was born in 1985.

"So Florence, do you remember much about the 1906 earthquake?"

"You mean the 1906 fire. Of course I remember it. My friend Louise and I sold lemonade in front of our house the next day. Made a good bit of money, too. Then the house fell in and we moved to a tent on Gough."

"Did you, by any chance, know Alice B. Toklas?"

"Oh yes, the family lived in our neighborhood. Alice was my favorite babysitter. We made cookies when she came over."

"And Gertrude?"

"Gertrude Stein? No. She lived over there."

"Over there in Paris?"

"No. Over there in Oakland."

The Jewish Home is full of "incredible old Jews," as Bill Schlichter, Nathan Robinson, Senn Talley, and others of our congregation who volunteer there can tell you. Florence was certainly one of the most incredible. May her memory be for a blessing.

—Mike Rankin

Yahrzeits

- 1 Gus Liebowitz, grandfather of Robin Leonard
- 2 John Golebowski, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
- 3 Nathan Hyman, father of Frank Hyman
- 3 Lee Gierson, father of Ellen Gierson
- 4 Abraham Parker, father of Harold Parker
- 5 Meyer Hirst, grandfather of Milton Estes
- 7 (Elul 7) Robert Kalman, brother of Marilyn Kalman
- 11 (Elul 11) Maurice Ash, father of Terry Rothchild Rose
- 12 (Elul 12) Rose Delroy, mother of David Delroy
- 13 Ida Prengler, grandmother of Ann Biderman
- 15 David Pierce, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
- 18 (Elul 18) Samuel Albert, grandfather of Don Albert
- 19 Gershon Lieberman, father of Debbie and Beatrice Lieberman and member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
- 19 Enid Feld, cousin of Ed L.
- 20 (Elul 20) Frances Cohen, sister of Bernard Pechter
- 23 Fannie Stein, mother of David Stein
- 26 Dora Siegel Weinstein, grandmother of Barry Siegel
- 28 (Elul 28) Frieda Fine Goldstein, mother of Bill Goldstein
- 29 (Elul 29) Doris Fink, friend of Carol Cohen
- 29 Albert Stein, father of David Stein
- 30 (Tishri 1) Rose Richshafer, grandmother of Sherie Ann Koshover
- 30 Minnie Brill, mother of Leonard Brill
- 30 (Tishri 1) Barney Sacks, grandfather of Mark Mencher

MEMBERSHIP

Check it out.
Besides the benefits
it feels good to be
part of Sha'ar Zahav.

Library Notes

A Summer of Growth

Change and growth are good for any organization and that is certainly true of our library. There is quite a bit of new growth and change to report this month. Even the look is new! The library is now crowned with a beautiful bronze plaque which comes about as a result of the dedication of the library wall in memory of Cheryl Orvis by her family and friends. You will probably also notice the new rack we have for the children's books. Less noticeable, but still new, is our collection of sibling congregations' newsletters.

Many books bought and donated over the last year are slowly working their way onto the shelves. Paul Blac gave the library quite a number of books including the *Authorized Daily Prayerbook* by Joseph Hertz and *Six Days of Destruction* co-authored by Elie Wiesel. Kenneth Burke has presented several books including *Dissenter in Zion* and *The High Wall of Jerusalem*. Merry Luskin and Nancy Snow have also contributed books. Many thanks to them and all of those who have contributed over the last year.

Just ordered are about 50 to 60 new titles of which about half are children's books. We are really excited about these books and especially pleased with the variety of topics. One treasure is already on the shelves as a reference book—the new JPS Torah Commentary—not complete until 1993, but we have *Genesis* and *Leviticus* for you now.

In selecting the titles for ordering, we were confronted by several titles that we felt we could not afford. Our wish list includes:

- *Chumash and Rashi*, about \$45,
- *Marc Chagall: The Jerusalem Window*, about \$35,
- *The Soncino Books of the Bible*, about \$160,
- *A Vanished World*, about \$60,
- *The Soncino Zohar*, about \$70,
- *The Soncino Midrash Rabbah*, about \$160.

If you would like to purchase these or any other books for our library, please call Bill Goldstein at 793-4283.

Because of a very generous donation of slides depicting Sha'ar Zahav's history we are in need of a slide projector and screen. Call Bill Goldstein if you can help.

The library's fiction connection is our book discussion group which meets on the third Wednesday of the month. Our first meeting was at the China Court restaurant and we discussed David Leavitt's *Lost Language of the Cranes*. We will meet again at the Patio restaurant at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, September 20 to discuss Andre Schwartz-Bach's *The Last of the Just*. All of the books we discuss are fiction and of Jewish content or by a Jewish author. Anyone interested may join us.

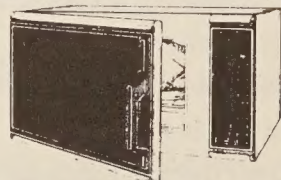
Because of the current activity in our library, we need help (typing, light clerical, etc.). If you can give some of your time on a regular basis or if you have any questions or comments, please call me at 552-3047. Much of this work can be done at home.

Again, thanks to all of you who have worked diligently this summer to make the library an ongoing success.

—Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Librarian

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Help at Home Program

Jewish Family and Children's Services' Help at Home Program recently introduced its Culinary Service. An alternative to institutionally prepared meals, Help at Home delivers tasty, nutritionally balanced dinners prepared by Bay Area chefs. All meals are available for low-salt, low-fat diets.

Help at Home also offers trained homemakers, nurses aides and companions, a culinary service with home delivery, laundry pick up and delivery, and personal affairs management (bill paying and conservatorship, upon request). According to Barbara Waxman, the program director, "We strive to eliminate the confusion so many adults and their families experience by providing a personal, all-inclusive home help program."

A free initial home consultation is provided and no fee is paid until help is found. Professional staff personally oversee clients' care on an ongoing basis to make sure their needs are being met. The full-fee program complements JFCS' existing subsidized services and augments JFCS' capacity to meet the needs of our community. For more information, call 561-1256.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members and friends in July and August. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Jeffrey Cohen
David Crosby
Robert Kramish
Adria Blum, Marilyn King,
Barry Chersky, Michael Baiad
and Ari Blum Chersky
David Brickman
Patrick Mourjan
Winston Pickett
Victor Zonana

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Eric Keitel
Vice President, Robin Leonard
Treasurer, Ben Schalit
Recorder, Gail Friedlander

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Allan Berenstein
Leslie Bergson
Ann Biderman
Steve Greenberg
Merry Luskin
Jose Luis Moscovich
Alita Rosenfeld
Jonathan Schwartz
Dana Vinicoff

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, Ken Burke
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Lorraine Locke-Nacamulli and Judith Cohen
Cookbook Project, Sanford Friedman
Dinner Chavurah, Jerry Hips
Education, by committee
Finance, Jerry Rosenstein
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers & Daniel Chesir
Membership, Merry Luskin
Newsletter, Howard Blechman & Alita Rosenfeld
Oneg, Scott Mezistrano
Past Presidents Council, Don Albert
Personnel, Irene Ogus
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky

Religious School, David Gellman & Ida Kuluk
Ritual, by committee
Social Action, Jonathan Mesinger & Lisa Katz
Social Program, Marc Mencher
Spirituality Chavurah, Larry Wexler
Women's Chavurah, Ann Biderman

Office Personnel:

Manager, Jenny Helbraun
Secretary, Veronica Kleinberg

Office Hours: Mon. 9-5; Tue. 1-5; Wed. 10-6; Thu. 9-5; Fri. 9-5.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am — check calendar for each month.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Eric Keitel, Liaison) and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Ora Prochovnick, Liaison).

Dr. Diane Sabin

CHIROPRACTOR

3892 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 415/826-8300

SEPTEMBER

אלול-תשרי

1 Friday 1 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15pm, Services, Shoftim, Rabbi Kahn and Leslie Bergson 	10 Sunday 10 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jewish Newcomers' Fair, SFJCC 4pm, Ensemble 	17 Sunday 17 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am, UAHC Presidents Council 2pm, Kiddushin—Friedman & Hipps 4pm, Ensemble 6:30pm, Clinic defense signmaking party, 2005 Fulton, SF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am, Kadimah 9:30pm, Services, Selichot, Rabbi Kahn and Dana Vinicoff
2 Saturday 2 Elul	11 Monday 11 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm, Va'ad Meeting 	18 Monday 18 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm, Long Range Planning 7:30pm, Education Committee 	24 Sunday 24 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch, Kaiser Hospital, SF 1:30pm, Cemetery dedication, Hills of Eternity Cemetery 4pm, Ensemble
3 Sunday 3 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:05pm, CSZ to Giants-Mets Game 	12 Tuesday 12 Elul	19 Tuesday 19 Elul	25 Monday 25 Elul
4 Monday 4 Elul Labor Day	13 Wednesday 13 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm, Newsletter Editing, 1711 Castro, SF 	20 Wednesday 20 Elul	26 Tuesday 26 Elul
5 Tuesday 5 Elul	14 Thursday 14 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm, Ritual Committee Meeting 	21 Thursday 21 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim 	27 Wednesday 27 Elul
6 Wednesday 6 Elul	15 Friday 15 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm, CSZ visits Jewish Home for the Aged 8:15pm, Services, Ki Tavo, Ritual Committee, practice session after services 	22 Friday 22 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15pm, Torah Service, Nitzavim-Vayelech, Rabbi Kahn and Tiela Chalmers, child care available, practice session after services 	28 Thursday 28 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm, Newsletter mailing, 14 Grandview Terrace
7 Thursday 7 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm, Children's Education 7:30pm, Social Action Committee 7:30pm, Long-Range Planning Meeting 	16 Saturday 16 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am, Kadimah 10:30am, Bill Schlichter's Bar Mitzvah, Daniel Chesir and Bill Schlichter 4pm, Healing Service 	23 Saturday 23 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-school program—tentative 	29 Friday 29 Elul Erev Rosh Hashanah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm, Services at First Unitarian Church, Rabbi Kahn and Ritual Committee, see High Holidays Schedule
8 Friday 8 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15pm, Services, Ki Tetze, Mike Rankin and Dana Vinicoff 			30 Saturday 1 Tishri Rosh Hashanah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am, Services at First Unitarian Church, Rabbi Kahn and Ritual Committee, see High Holidays Schedule
9 Saturday 9 Elul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am, Kadimah, Kadimah Family Learning Day 			

6 Friday, October 6, 7 Tishri
 • 8:15pm, Torah Service, Shabbat Shuvah, Rabbi Kahn and Daniel Chesir

7 Saturday, October 7, 8 Tishri
 • 10:30am, Morning Services, Rabbi Kahn and Bill Schlichter
 • 4pm, Liturgy for Healing, Rabbi Kahn